

MI Child Support Formula - Child support changes

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To: <MCSF@courts.mi.gov>
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Subject: Child support changes

Dear Justices:

Please, please, please think through the consequences of possible changes to the child support formula especially the change that would reduce child support for non-custodial parents that have the children for over 52 overnights.. As a single and custodial parent, I have experienced the difficulties in running a household on my own. Unlike many single parents, I have been fortunate to have received child support and I feel for the parents that do not have this advantage. Even with regular child support, it is a difficult task to maintain a household for your children and attempt to provide them with the necessities in life. It is the children that are important here and the reduction in child support will only hurt them. A reduction in child support takes money away from the custodial home, a stability the children need. Because the children spend a number of nights away from home does not significantly reduce the costs of running that home which is the children's anchor. The home will still be heated, the electricity will still be maintained, the home and car will still need insurance and there will still need to be milk and bread in the kitchen.

Another thought, the ability to pay does not always equal the willingness to pay. You may reduce the necessary payments but that does not insure that the reduced child support will be paid. Enforcement is what is needed. Parents can not be allowed to forget their responsibility to their children.

I know it is difficult for some non-custodial parents to keep up with their payments, but maybe it is their life choices that make this so.

I do feel that the 8% penalty should be lifted in certain cases.

Parental involvement should always be encouraged, but do you want the sole reason for this involvement to be financial? The overnights should be sought to nurture the relationship with the child/children not because it saves money! If this change is implemented you can expect the "overnight" issue to be a big battle in Friend of the Court cases.

This is a very emotional issue for me and I could go on and on.....I will spare you. I know there are changes that need to be made to a system that is far from perfect. As you make these very difficult decisions please remember the children. The children have usually been through a lot already and they are the ones that matter the most. When we bring them into this world we are responsible to care for them and often that means sacrifice. Both parents need to make choices that result in fulfilling their obligation to the lives they created. Nobody ever said it would be easy.....!!!